



## Mrs. Marion Anthony Edwards

August 4, 1932 - May 10, 2020

St. Michaels:

Marion Anthony Edwards passed away peacefully on May 10, 2020 in St. Michael's, Maryland with her loving family by her side. She was 87.

Marion was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on August 4, 1932 to the late Bernard F. Anthony and Johanna Anthony.

She graduated from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. She earned her master's degree from Drew University in Madison, NJ, and was a high school teacher at West Morris Central High School in Long Valley, NJ. Marion taught English, Public Speaking, Drama, and coached the Debate Team. She had a joy of learning both as a student and an educator. Marion received the New Jersey's Governor's Award for Teaching in 1990. She was proud of her 27 high school musicals she directed and produced and her "cast of thousands" believing that all students should be able to participate. The Edwards' lived in Mendham, NJ for 34 years, where they raised their family. In 2001, she and Fred retired to St. Michaels, Maryland, where she loved the Chesapeake Bay, boating, serving as the President of the Women's Club, her family, and many friends. She leaves behind a legacy of love and learning and will be dearly missed.

Marion is survived by her son, John A. Edwards (Lucy) of Napa, CA; her daughters, Joanne Duggan (Mike) of Lakewood Ranch, FL, Kathleen Rosenberger of St. Michaels, MD, Jill Edwards of St. Michaels, MD; and her granddaughters, Jill and Kathryn Rosenberger, both of Denver, CO.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Frederick H. Edwards, and her beloved son-in-law, Paul Fritts Rosenberger.

A memorial service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Marion's memory to Marietta College <https://www.marietta.edu/give>.

# Cemetery

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## Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA,

# Comments

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“ To the family of Mrs. Edwards,

I am deeply sorry for your loss. Mrs. Edwards was one of the best teachers I have ever had. She was a mentor to me while in High School. She encouraged and supported me in my pursuit of acting and public speaking. She laughed at all my corny jokes and was always supportive. I know that she had a monumental influence on many students at WMCH. My prayers are with you all at this time.

Shaun Pilkington

Shaun Pilkington - June 08 at 10:43 PM

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“ To the family of Marion Edwards,

I would like to send my fond wishes and prayers for Marion and all the family. I met Marion at the Woman's Club in St. Michaels when we were both retired. She was a dear friend, role model and an enabler of lifetime learning. I especially enjoyed her directing the Book Club sessions with her interesting insights.

I hope that your cherished memories of her life will sustain you now and throughout your lives.

Fondly, Evelyn LoRe

EVELYN LORE - May 31 at 11:58 AM

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“ I just learned of the passing of Mrs. Edwards. She was a marvelous teacher; her love of literature & theater was absolutely contagious. She was also a warm and caring mentor who deeply believed in her students and their potential — in a way, I imagine, that many had never been believed in before. Her contribution as an educator, measured in the lives she enlarged over decades, is immense. RIP

Ash Bennington - May 24 at 10:40 PM

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“ We have been so touched by the wonderful memories you have shared about our mother, Marion.

She had a true passion for teaching, her students and colleagues and loved hearing from so many of you over the years.

She had a long, wonderful life and we are very grateful for that.

Thank you for the kind words, they have made us very proud.

Jack, Joanne, Kathy and Jill



“ I share the following personal reflection about what she meant to me -

Marion Edwards essence reflected the characteristics most treasured in our noble profession. She always conveyed caring, commitment, concern, dedication and genuine love for all whom she touched. She was a true giant in the classroom! She willingly and joyfully shared her knowledge, expertise, and insights with everyone she encountered. Her classes, her directing, her exchanges always evidenced a true sense of interest in each and every person she met.

Marion's teaching enriched the lives of young people. Her person enhanced The nobility of our treasured profession. Her spirit uplifted her colleagues. May her legacy always be remembered as a person who made the lives of all she touched

Extraordinary!

Dr. Michael J. Reilly

Dr. Reilly - May 16 at 04:42 PM

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“ Mrs. Edwards' Class was one of my favorites! I can't tell you how many times I've caught myself not saying "Um" or "Like" because I'll hear her voice in my head...& it never fails to make me smile. She was truly one of the Best

Christina Dellanno Heimroth - May 15 at 09:40 PM

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“ I worked with Marion for many years at WMC. She was a great lady and educator. We ran the graduation ceremony together and she made them top notch. I also served as the Activities Director for several years and one thing I never worried about was the school play. Marion put on some very professional performances. Whenever I passed her in the hall, her smile lit up my day. When something like this happens it always sparks memories, and thinking of Marion brought back many very pleasant ones. You have my sincerest condolences.

Jim Nordstrom

Jim Nordstrom - May 15 at 05:42 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marion Anthony Edwards.



May 15 at 10:41 AM

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“ Marion was my first unofficial teacher-mentor. She was a beautiful person, beloved teacher, and amazing lady. I was blessed to work at West Morris Central with her for many years, as she took me under her wing and looked out for me. She taught me so much and always carried herself with grace and dignity, even when she got her "Irish up" as she would say. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

**Michele Pastore** - May 15 at 08:37 AM

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“ Wonderful teacher. My prayers are with her family.



**sharon sokalski** - May 14 at 06:28 PM

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“ Jack, Joanne, Kathy and Jill- We are so sorry to learn of Marion's passing. We remember our times with "Maid Marion" and Fred fondly. Marion was always quick with a smile or laugh and conversations were always lively. She touched so many lives and raised a wonderful family. We will keep you all in our prayers. Love Marcia and Neil Henry

**Neil and Marcia Henry** - May 14 at 04:46 PM

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“ Marion Edwards was a tremendous influence on my life and my teaching. When I started teaching, Marion would take time out of her day to reassure me and support me. She always had a wise word and a ready smile. Most importantly she showed me how to enjoy the good moments, of which she had many, and how to put the

difficult ones into perspective. Nothing needed to be perfect. She let me see that even as a sage and fantastic teacher, there were errors. She would laugh and show us all that the show could and should go on. Her warmth and intellect followed as we took grad classes together. She opened her heart and her home to many of us. Her laughter and slightly off color humor were often a light in the darkness of the stressors of daily lives for her colleagues and her students. We always knew that she would listen and care. I loved sitting in her class (which she allowed often) trying to steal some tidbit of genius. I loved seeing the students who she and Dr. Rufino had helped transform into actors. I will miss that smirk and laugh but I will never forget it. Thank you Marion.

Debbie Gonzalez - May 14 at 02:51 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Marion Anthony Edwards.



May 14 at 09:58 AM

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“ I was blessed to share a classroom with Marion Edwards from the day I arrived at West Morris Central till the day she retired. From the moment I met her, she charmed me with her distinctive smile, which somehow captured so much of her personality---her warmth, her generosity, her wit, and her unique appreciation of irony.

As a relatively young teacher, quite junior to her veteran status and in awe of her vaunted reputation, I learned many lessons about the craft of teaching from Marion by simply eavesdropping while she taught. The greatest gift that I learned from her was that students needed to be treated like adults, not children, and that meant treating them with respect, really listening to their point of view, and also, if warranted, employing a gentle sarcasm, which might not only disarm a recalcitrant student, but also, after he or she thought about it for a few minutes, provide an illustrative lesson in subtle tone.

But what I am sure most students will remember about Marion was her loving nature, both during and after class, because she was always, right up to the day she retired, a compassionate teacher. There were countless times that I entered the classroom after school and found her comforting a distraught student who was struggling with a problem at home. And I personally benefitted from Marion's compassion through several personal challenges.

Marion was a wonderful person: full of love and fun and intellect. And she was a one of a kind teacher, who will always be remembered as a West Morris Central legend.

Ralph Caiazzo - May 14 at 09:20 AM



“ BUT sometimes we DESERVED to be treated like children:) What a great tribute to her, Mr. Caiazzo! I had you both in that classroom and this explains a lot.... 2 very amazing and influential teachers in my life!

- Courtney Lake

**Courtney Lake** - May 14 at 11:40 AM

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“ Mrs. Edwards was a wonderful teacher. She made quite the impression on me and I still use many of the public speaking skills she passed on. At 51, I've told more stories about that public speaking class than any other class. And all of them are about how she encouraged us to be our best, I am lucky to have been taught by her. Rest in peace Mrs Edwards.

**Shawn Tylka** - May 14 at 08:16 AM

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“ I met Marion my first year as a teacher in West Morris Central. That was 1981 and I came there from an internship at the University of North Carolina.

Her intelligence was beyond the pale, expert in public speaking, English and her passion: helping students become actors!

We would have long discussions and laugh and discuss life. I bought a house in 1984 and before I could get in, she put me up in her home. I remember one night, she told me "stop grading" so, we could have a drink and talk!

Marion was a anchor amongst some of the finest educators I had ever met! The staff at WMC was amazing. The students were a joy and it did feel like a second "home."

Most importantly: she was a role model for women! Tough, unflappable, kind, giving and proud of her gender! Rest in Peace Marion. You have touched so many lives and your "teaching, grace and ethics" are still passed on to children of former students. What a grand legacy. Love you big, Johnny B.

**John F. Borowski** - May 13 at 10:23 PM

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“ Mrs Edwards was an amazing woman. She was caring, smart, involved and a great support to her students. I'm so grateful to have known her and learned from her. She touched many lives and was loved by many people. I'm thankful to be one of them.

**Karina Raupp** - May 13 at 10:02 PM

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“ I love Mrs. Edwards! She was the kindest, caring person and helped me through a difficult time in my HS years. She was always patient and understanding and incredibly positive. You will be missed by many I'm sure and I'll see you on the other side when my time comes! Blessings to your family and those that love you! . May God bless you all!

With love,

Karen Williams (Betyeman)

Karen Williams - May 13 at 09:57 PM

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“ She was the BEST! Had her for public speaking... she was smart, funny, super patient and taught me things that I still use in my life today. Class act and she will live in my heart forever.

Courtney Lake - May 13 at 08:41 PM

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“ I will never forget Mrs. Edwards and all of her support, without which I might not have had the courage to choose musical theater as my college major. Although life's path has taken me far from that course as a career, the foundation that theater studies gave me starting from high school has been invaluable.

Kellie Henry - May 13 at 08:40 PM

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“ Mrs Edwards was a fantastic teacher. She found a way to get students to work hard and go further. I learned a lot in her class and remember her fondly.

D. Olivares - May 13 at 08:09 PM

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“ Mrs. Edwards was such a special teacher. I will always remember her kindness with an awkward young girl who she gave the opportunity to student direct one year. I still have a book of poetry that she gave me.

Dawn Blasberg Shedden - May 13 at 08:01 PM

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“ I should share just a little more, though I will admit that it is difficult. One of my strongest memories of Mrs. Edwards was when she saved my future self. When I was student director, we did assemblies showcasing the upcoming musical for the school. My job was to

go out in front of about 500 students and introduce the scenes. Though I had a microphone, the freshman and sophomores got too rowdy and started catcalling every time that I appeared. The insults and bullying cut deep and I was a mess by the time we finished. Both grades were not allowed to have assemblies for the rest of the year. Yet we still had the juniors and seniors to go. I would have given anything to not have to speak again. But Mrs. Edwards insisted that I had to. So I did it from backstage with a microphone. Today I am a college professor who regularly gets up in front of classes always with a hidden fear of people making fun of me behind my back. But I can teach and I can do it well. This is because Mrs. Edwards didn't let me give up. I never took public speaking from her, but her lessons stuck with me nevertheless.

**Dawn Blasberg Shedden** - May 14 at 01:01 PM

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“ Mrs Edwards as with many was my favorite teacher. She convinced me to try out for Oklahoma of which I was forever grateful for. She was fair , tough and for me a mentor during a troubling time. You had a lasting impact in my life which I am extremely grateful for. God bless and my sincere condolences to your family!!

**Kevin Antoneilli** - May 13 at 07:49 PM

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“ I am grateful to have been one of Mrs. Edward's assistant directors during my years at WMC. 79-83. She was an amazing teacher, director and friend to every student who had the privilege of her gifts. I wish her only peace Everlasting. My condolences to her family and friends .

**Jill Alpert Miller** - May 13 at 07:45 PM

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“ I was recently reading what she wrote in my yearbook. It brought me to tears because she said I inspired her. I don't think she knew how much she inspired me and had a huge impact on me and for where I am today. Incredible woman... my heartfelt sympathies..

**Denise Schott Zweigle** - May 13 at 07:37 PM

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“ Mrs. Edwards was an amazing teacher. She loved what she did and she loved each and everyone of her students like they were her own! Even though I wasn't the musical type she always found a place for me to help out! I helped with some of the dances and stage make up for a few of the plays while I was in high school! Her public speaking class was one of my favorites! She made it fun and dramatic! She will be missed!



“ Mrs. Edwards was my first theater director, an extraordinary teacher and simply a beautiful human being. As a director, she cast me as Mr. MacLaren in “Brigadoon” my junior year of high school (my very first show) and quickly shared her two favorite mantras: “half of acting is reacting” (which started me on the path of learning how to listen to my fellow actors) and “there are no small parts, only small actors” (which started me on the path of learning to love the secondary and character parts in shows, a lesson that made my second show with her as Parchester in “Me & My Girl” an absolute dream). As a senior, she also had to deal with my shenanigans off stage in both her English and public speaking classes, where I began to finally make a connection with Shakespeare and learned how to be more confident when addressing people, two things that are still with me today thanks to her passion for the subjects she taught, along with the comforting and supportive approach she took. And while I suppose I always knew her as a “teacher,” I know she was also a beautiful soul, always willing to share a story, always there to pick you up when you were down and always locked and loaded with that wicked sense of humor and sarcasm that I appreciated and knew came from a place of love. So “thank you” Mrs. Edwards for everything you did for your students, your family and your friends over the course of your life. I know I wouldn’t be the person I am today (both on stage and off) if we had not crossed paths back in 1992. You loved us and we loved you, and you will never be forgotten ...

David Rittenhouse - May 13 at 06:03 PM

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“ Marion was one of my dearest friends. We taught together from 1972 until she retired in 2001. We collaborated on reviving the school musical in the 1972-3 school year with no money and the warning from the principal that we could not go into debt. Her husband, Fred designed the scenery and the costuming was minimal. From there a huge legacy began -27 more shows. That first show. Oliver played to 2 sell out audiences, and provided a relief line in future years when going got tough-"Well we could always do Oliver again!" and in fact, for our 15th anniversary we repeated Oliver. We spent so much time together that students often called me "Mr.Edwards". During the production of Camelot, Marion often stood in the rear of the auditorium watching and ready to divert any disasters. A very stiff moving actor with a beautiful voice was cast as Sir Lancelot. A gentleman turn to Marion and said, "This is better than Broadway!" Marion looked at him and said, "You must have some relative in the cast" to which he replied "Lancelot". Marion firmly believed that the shows were the students' shows. They should make decisions and she used student assistant directors for many years. Many of these students will attest to their love of Mrs. Edwards. Two of her most famous quotes were: "There are no small parts only small actors",. and "Half of acting is reacting" After a few years when she would say "half of acting is..." the students would reply, "ing" and of course Marion would laugh along with them. I have so many wonderful memories

of Marion not only from the musicals; she chaperoned many of my choir trips from Williamsburg, VA to many cruises to the Bahamas and Cozumel. We would have intellectual gatherings at her home in Mendham led by our former principal, Dr. Ronald Batistoni, who became a lifelong friend and neighbor to her in St. Michaels. I will miss her smile, her voice, her laughter and her presence in my life. Jane and I were glad that we were able to visit her several times during her retirement in Maryland.

My deepest sympathy and condolences to her children and her grandchildren who know what an extraordinary person Marion Edwards was. May the angels lead you into Paradise. Until we meet again.

**Dr. Vincent J. Rufino** - May 13 at 05:14 PM



“ Beautifully expressed!

**Gwendolyn** - May 13 at 07:58 PM



“ Mrs. Edwards was my VERY FAVORITE academic teacher at WMC. She was perpetually kind, yet tough—in a way that made you set higher standards for yourself. She celebrated my creativity and showed me how to apply it to learning the yawner (seemingly uncreative) stuff. Things I apply in my professional creative work every day. She has never been forgotten. To her family, know that she had a huge impact on so many students! Prayers for you all.

**Suzan (Selander) Dise** - May 13 at 04:59 PM



“ Mrs. Edwards was my public speaking teacher, and play director for 4 years. She was a gentle and kind soul, always willing to give a warm hug and a big smile. I always wanted the lead in the play, and she helped me achieve that goal by senior year. I sang like a mockingbird for her, sitting in the front row with her huge smile. She made me want to be a teacher, with her genuine, caring style. I now teach English language arts and o LC hope to be a fraction of the teacher she was. God bless Mrs. Edwards!

**Kelly Suzanne** - May 12 at 11:06 PM